# Why do I use Money Management Software?

1. Tracking expenses
   1. When did we buy something?
   2. How much are we spending and where is it going?
   3. Are we putting our money in the right place?
   4. Do we need to adjust spending?
   5. How much will accumulate over the next period?
2. Reconciling with institution
   1. Checking for spurious charges
   2. Confirming that we are in sync
   3. Knowing what funds are truly available and when

# What about other offerings?

1. Mint
   1. Pros
      1. Great job of tracking expenses
      2. Provides some budgeting
   2. Cons
      1. Support really, really, REALLY, sucks -- as in, forget trying to use it. Had very bad experiences trying to explain some defects in their budgeting models and they just refused to accept it was a defect.
      2. Doesn’t provide enough history retention or analytical reporting
      3. Online only, not local database.
      4. Free, but have to expose your data for their marketing considerations.
2. Personal Capital
   1. Pros
      1. Does a really great job of connecting with all my accounts including 401k
      2. Nice dashboard
      3. Free, no marketing other than them trying to get you to use their investment consultation. Never tried it, might be good, just don’t need it -- yet.
   2. Cons
      1. Doesn’t provide enough history retention or analytical reporting
3. Quicken
   1. Pros
      1. Local client, local DB
   2. Cons
      1. Really, really dislike the UX and I’ve tried it multiple times
4. MoneyDance
   1. Pros
      1. It is a local client with local database
      2. Just looked at the site again (<http://infinitekind.com>) and it looks like it is worth another look.
   2. Cons
      1. Java app.
5. YNAB
   1. Pros
      1. Free
      2. Online only, you have to expose your data
   2. Cons
      1. Too simplified
6. GnuCash
   1. Pros
      1. Local client, local database
      2. Open source
   2. Cons
      1. It is dual-entry bookkeeping; too tedious and overkill for my needs.
7. Tiller - new; haven’t tried this one yet
   1. Not an app per se, but a $5/month subscription that connects you to your institutions and outputs the data into Google Sheets.
   2. Interesting idea -- if the data can then be stored indefinitely it could provide some of the history desired.
   3. Having the subscription could provide the interface with institutions

# Desires and Thoughts

1. Accounts
   1. Don’t think we need any of the fancy stuff Money does with accounts; e.g., loans, etc.
   2. Single entry like Money; i.e., a checkbook register
   3. Reconcile/balance account
   4. Transfer between accounts
   5. Move between accounts
   6. Favorites
   7. Account info?
2. Budget categories
3. Tax categories
   1. This could make for a simple tax report
   2. Would it be an annual effort to keep up with changes?
   3. Could this be just a flag on the budget categories?
      1. Are budget categories M:1 with tax categories?
      2. Or are they M:M?
4. Tags
   1. Like Money classifications but more flexible
   2. Do these need to be structured in any way?
5. Import of QFX, XLS, XLXS, and CSV would be nice-to-have for reconciling
6. Reporting
   1. Select accounts (all)
   2. Select budget categories (all)
   3. Select tags (all)
   4. Saved reports
7. Bill set-up for auto-entry
   1. Provide a calendar view as in Money?
8. Better dashboard at start-up
   1. Instead of all the account balances, something that shows a graphical indication of how things are looking today based upon user parameters.
   2. Maybe current market and economic trends
      1. Where would this come from?
   3. Graphs showing expense and income trends over user-defined period.
   4. Current net worth
9. Alerts and Notifications
   1. Projected balance exceeding limits
   2. Scheduled bills exceeding projected income (based upon history)
10. Investments
    1. Not sure how much this makes sense given that most of it is online with the respective vendors
    2. If included, latest quote would be nice
11. Simple means of archiving data by year
    1. By entry year? By tax year?
    2. Still need a way to report across years
12. Upgrades
    1. Are there considerations for data with regard to an upgrade in the future?
13. Import from MS Money
    1. This would be nice
    2. Would it be an issue given that the Money data could be corrupt?
    3. Not sure there is any real way to check it during import to prevent the corruption from coming in.
    4. Guess it could be added and left up to the user with a warning.
14. Export
    1. Is there a need for export?
    2. Maybe tax export for import into tax software?
15. Build environment
    1. .NET Core to make it universal?
    2. Maybe Windows-only is sufficient
    3. Database
       1. Very informative blog on what is available in .NET Core:
          1. [.NET Core Data Access](https://blogs.msdn.microsoft.com/dotnet/2016/11/09/net-core-data-access/)
       2. SQL Server Express
          1. Max 4GB DB
          2. Single-user, local DB, no remote access
       3. MySQL
          1. [NuGet MySql.Data](https://www.nuget.org/packages/Mysql.Data/)
       4. Redis - NoSQL
          1. Multi-user, in-memory DB, limited to max of available memory
          2. [How to create a Web App with Redis Cache](https://docs.microsoft.com/en-us/azure/redis-cache/cache-web-app-howto)
          3. [GitHub StackExchange.Redis](https://github.com/StackExchange/StackExchange.Redis)
          4. [NuGet StackExchange.Redis](https://www.nuget.org/packages/StackExchange.Redis/)
       5. Esent
          1. Max 16TB DB
          2. Single-user, local DB, no remote access
          3. [GitHub ManagedEsent](https://github.com/microsoft/managedesent)
       6. LiteDB
          1. [Embedded NoSQL database for .NET](http://www.litedb.org/)